GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1840
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Safety on Nuclear Power Plants
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Karunakaran Shri P.;Sathyabama Smt. V.;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)the measures taken to ensure the safety and security of the nuclear power plants in the country, plant-wise;

(b)the details of mechanism put in place to monitor the safety parameters of all the nuclear plants in the country;

(c)whether protection measures are reviewed and retested on regular basis under different technical parameters keeping in view the geographic location of the nuclear plants in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(d)whether Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) have planned to allocate any funds for the security and surveillance to install Perimeter Detection Solutions CCTV camera, Biometric surveillance gadgets and surveillance system for all the nuclear/atomic power plants in the country; and

(e)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)In all nuclear power plants, safety is accorded utmost priority in all phases of siting, design, construction, commissioning and operation. A systematic approach using well-defined principles is followed in the design of the nuclear power plants to provide the required safety features adopting principles of defence-in-depth, diversity and redundancy. Nuclear Power Plants are constructed in accordance with the design intent and with strict quality standards. The operations are performed strictly in accordance with laid out

procedures by highly trained and licensed personnel. There is a robust regulatory mechanism in place and periodic safety reviews are carried out both by NPCIL and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

As far as security is concerned, nuclear installations are provided with multilayer security arrangements and are under security cover of the Central Industrial Security Force and other security agencies in the country with additional manpower and equipment, whenever necessary. Integrated security systems including Perimeter Intrusion Detection System (PIDS) and other electronic surveillance systems are in place at all nuclear power plants in the country. These security arrangements are reviewed and updated periodically based on various inputs received from Central and State Agencies.

(b)All the safety and other plant parameters are monitored in the control room of nuclear power plants continuously. The parameters are also physically monitored at respective locations. The safety functions can be performed from supplementary control room in the unlikely event of the control room not being accessible in case of an emergency.

(c)Yes, Sir. The various safety features are periodically tested as per laid down procedures and in line with technical specifications. Periodic safety reviews are also conducted by the regulatory authority, AERB.

(d)&(e) Yes, Sir. Adequate funds have been allocated for installation, upgradation and maintenance of various surveillance equipment and other security measures at all the nuclear power plant sites.

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